SPIDER-MAN
FAIRY TALES
MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
3 OF 4

THERE ARE TALES OF SORROW AND TALES OF WOE.
TALES OF HEROES WHO FIGHT MANY A FOE.
LEGENDS OF MEN WHO SLAY EVIL BEASTS DEAD...
...TO RESCUE A PRINCESS WHOM THEY WILL THEN WED.
THIS STORY IS DIFFERENT AS IT FEATURES A BOY...
...A LONELY YOUNG LAD WHO'S NOT KNOWN MUCH JOY.
HIS CHILDHOOD WAS TRAGIC, BUT FROM FEAR HE'D NOT COWER...
...AS HE LEARNED OF THE VIRTUES OF RESPONSIBILITY AND POWER.
SO LET US NOW TURN OUR GAZE FAR, FAR EAST...
...FOR THE STORY OF THE SPIDER AND THE YOUNG ORPHAN PRIEST.

eclipse

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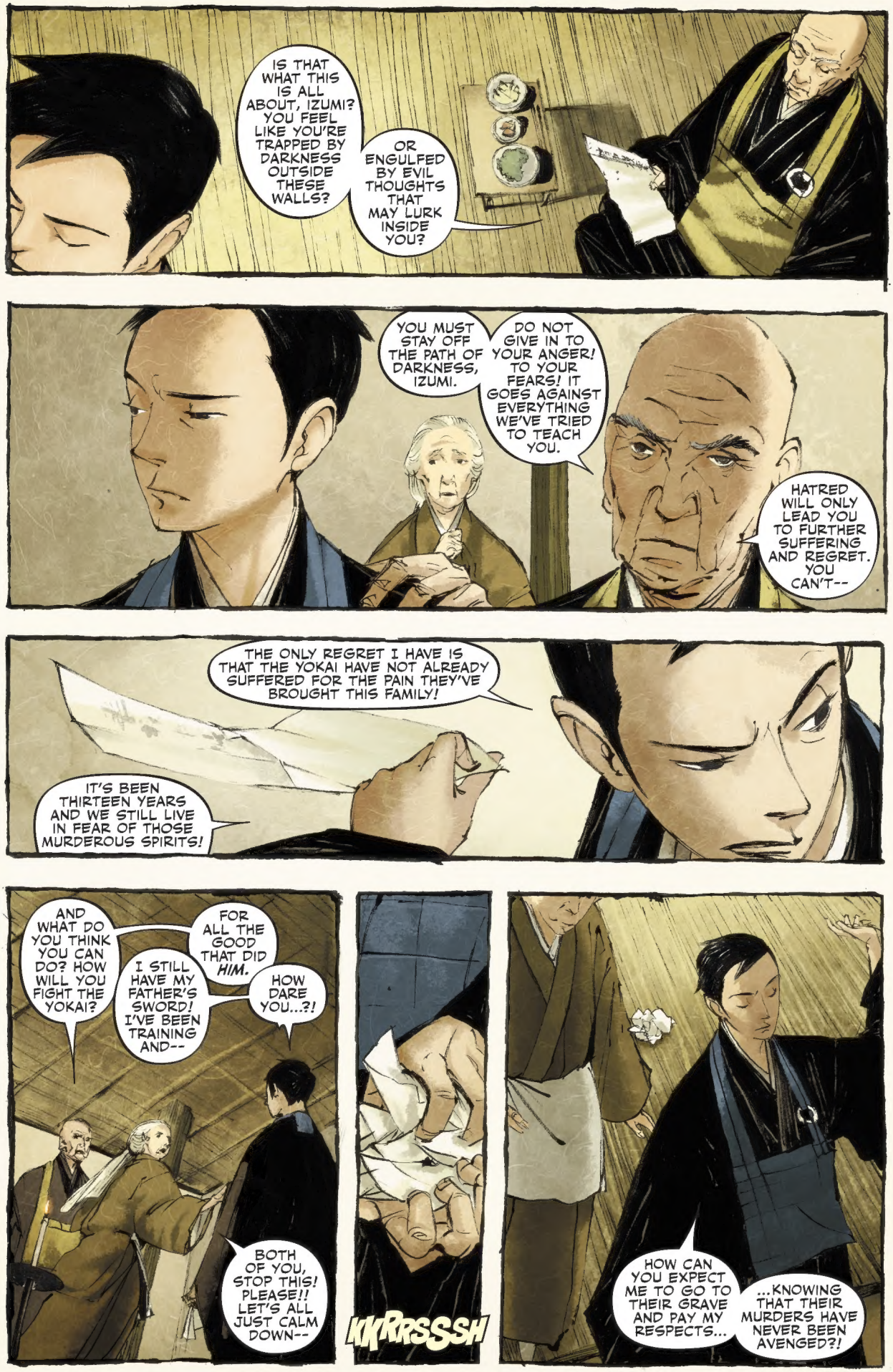
IZUMI! IZUMI, WHERE ARE YOU? IT'S TIME FOR US TO CLOSE THE GATES!

Translated: *I'm groping blindly through the darkness.*

SOMETIMES I WISH WE COULD LEAVE THE GATES OPEN.
FORGET THE WARDS THAT PROTECT US AND LET THE GHOSTS THAT HAUNT THIS FOREST IN SO WE CAN STAND UP TO THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, IZUMI?! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE POWER THE YOKAI POSSESS!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD DO TO US IF GIVEN THE CHANCE!
SLAM
AND YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THEY'VE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME!
I JUST WANT TO MAKE THEM PAY!

YOUR AUNT TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED AT THE GATE TODAY, IZUMI. YOUR EMOTIONS ARE UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN TODAY IS THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR PARENTS' DEATH--
SWAK
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!
IZUMI, PLEASE... I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET. EVERY BOY NEEDS HIS PARENTS, AND YOURS WERE TAKEN FROM YOU AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
BUT BELIEVE ME, WE UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL. WE LOVED THEM TOO.
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU HAD A LIFETIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM! I CAN BARELY REMEMBER THEIR FACES...
...THANKS TO THE EVIL YOKAI THAT KILLED THEM!!


IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, IZUMI? YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TRAPPED BY DARKNESS OUTSIDE THESE WALLS?
OR ENGULFED BY EVIL THOUGHTS THAT MAY LURK INSIDE YOU?
YOU MUST STAY OFF THE PATH OF DARKNESS, IZUMI.
DO NOT GIVE IN TO YOUR ANGER! TO YOUR FEARS! IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING WE'VE TRIED TO TEACH YOU.
HATRED WILL ONLY LEAD YOU TO FURTHER SUFFERING AND REGRET. YOU CAN'T--
THE ONLY REGRET I HAVE IS THAT THE YOKAI HAVE NOT ALREADY SUFFERED FOR THE PAIN THEY'VE BROUGHT THIS FAMILY!
IT'S BEEN THIRTEEN YEARS AND WE STILL LIVE IN FEAR OF THOSE MURDEROUS SPIRITS!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO? HOW WILL YOU FIGHT THE YOKAI?
FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT DID *HIM*.
I STILL HAVE MY FATHER'S SWORD! I'VE BEEN TRAINING AND--
HOW DARE YOU...?!
BOTH OF YOU, STOP THIS! PLEASE!! LET'S ALL JUST CALM DOWN--
KKRRSSSH
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO GO TO THEIR GRAVE AND PAY MY RESPECTS...
...KNOWING THAT THEIR MURDERS HAVE NEVER BEEN AVENGED?!

I'M SORRY, MOTHER.
FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
I WAS A HELPLESS YOUNG BOY WHEN THE YOKAI TOOK YOU FROM ME.
I'M A MAN NOW, THOUGH, AND I WILL FINALLY SEE THAT THOSE DEMONS PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOU.
ALTHOUGH IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING UNCLE MASARU HAS TAUGHT ME...
...I TRULY BELIEVE YOUR SPIRITS WILL NOT REST UNTIL JUSTICE HAS BEEN SERVED IN YOUR NAME.
MAY YOUR SPIRITS LEND ME STRENGTH.

SCHING
GUIDE MY HAND, FATHER...

A HUMAN HAS FINALLY COME OUT TO PLAY!
HA HAHA HA HAHA HA
SWISH SWISH
SWISH
HA HAHA HA HAHA HA
FINALLY GIVEN IN TO THE ANGER, HAVE YOU, IZUMI?
WE KNEW YOU WOULD STEP INTO THE DARKNESS SOONER OR LATER.

BROUGHT YOUR FANGS. HAVE YOU?
SO HAVE I.
SHLOK
HIIIYYYAAHH!!
THAT'S FOR MY PARENTS, DEMON!!
OUCH?
SHRUUK
ARRRGGHHH!

PATHETIC. YOUR MOTHER PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT, BOY.
NO... SATSUKI... MASARU...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR AUNT AND UNCLE. YOU LEFT THE GATE OPEN BEHIND YOU!
WE'LL BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU WON'T BE COMING HOME...
...EVER AGAIN!
WHAT... HAVE I DONE...?
FORGIVE... ME...

COUGH
COUGH
I'M ALIVE?! BUT HOW...?
WHAT...? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...?!
NO...

AUNT SATSUKI?! UNCLE MASARU?!
IZU... IZUMI...
UNCLE MASARU! OH, NO... I'M SORRY... I'M SO SORRY!
PLEASE, IZUMI... NOT...MUCH TIME... LISTEN... TO ME...
YOUR AUNT... SATSUKI... SHE'S ALIVE. THEY... THEY TOOK... HER...
GO... GO SAVE HER... PLEASE! AND... AND TAKE THIS...
MASARU? UNCLE MASARU...?! PLEASE, NO...!
RE... REMEMBER... ALWAYS...
NEVER... FORGET... US...
When you feel trapped, look for the light on the path before you.
NNOOO!!!

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO TORTURE ME LIKE THIS?!
WHY NOT SIMPLY KILL ME?
ALLOW MY SPIRIT TO JOIN THOSE OF MY ANCESTORS.
MASARU... IZUMI...
YOUR HUSBAND'S SOUL HAS MOST SURELY PASSED ON...
...BUT YOUR NEPHEW'S WILL SOON BELONG TO ME!
NO!!
OH, YES... YOUR PRECIOUS IZUMI STILL LIVES.
ALTHOUGH MY VENOM NOW MOVES THROUGH HIS VEINS, TAINTING HIS BLOOD...
...STAINING HIS SOUL!
IZUMI WILL NEVER SUCCUMB TO YOU, DEMON!
THE RELATIVES OF ALL THE OTHER YOKAI I'VE TURNED SAID THE SAME THING!
BUT THEY ALL ATE THEIR WORDS...
...AS THEIR LOVED ONES ATE THEIR SOULS!!
WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, WOMAN! KILLING AND CONSUMING YOU WILL BE THE FINAL STEP ON YOUR NEPHEW'S ROAD TO METAMORPHOSIS.
YOU MAY HAVE POISONED MY BODY, DEMON...

...BUT YOU'LL NEVER POSSESS MY SPIRIT!
YOU'LL GIVE IN BEFORE TOO LONG. THE DARK FLAME THAT NOW BURNS INSIDE YOU...
...SIMPLY NEEDS A LITTLE MORE FANNING.

YEEAARRGHH

THERE IS NO HOPE FOR YOU, SPIDER.
YOU WILL SOON JOIN OUR RANKS.
AS ONE OF THE DAMNED!
SHINK

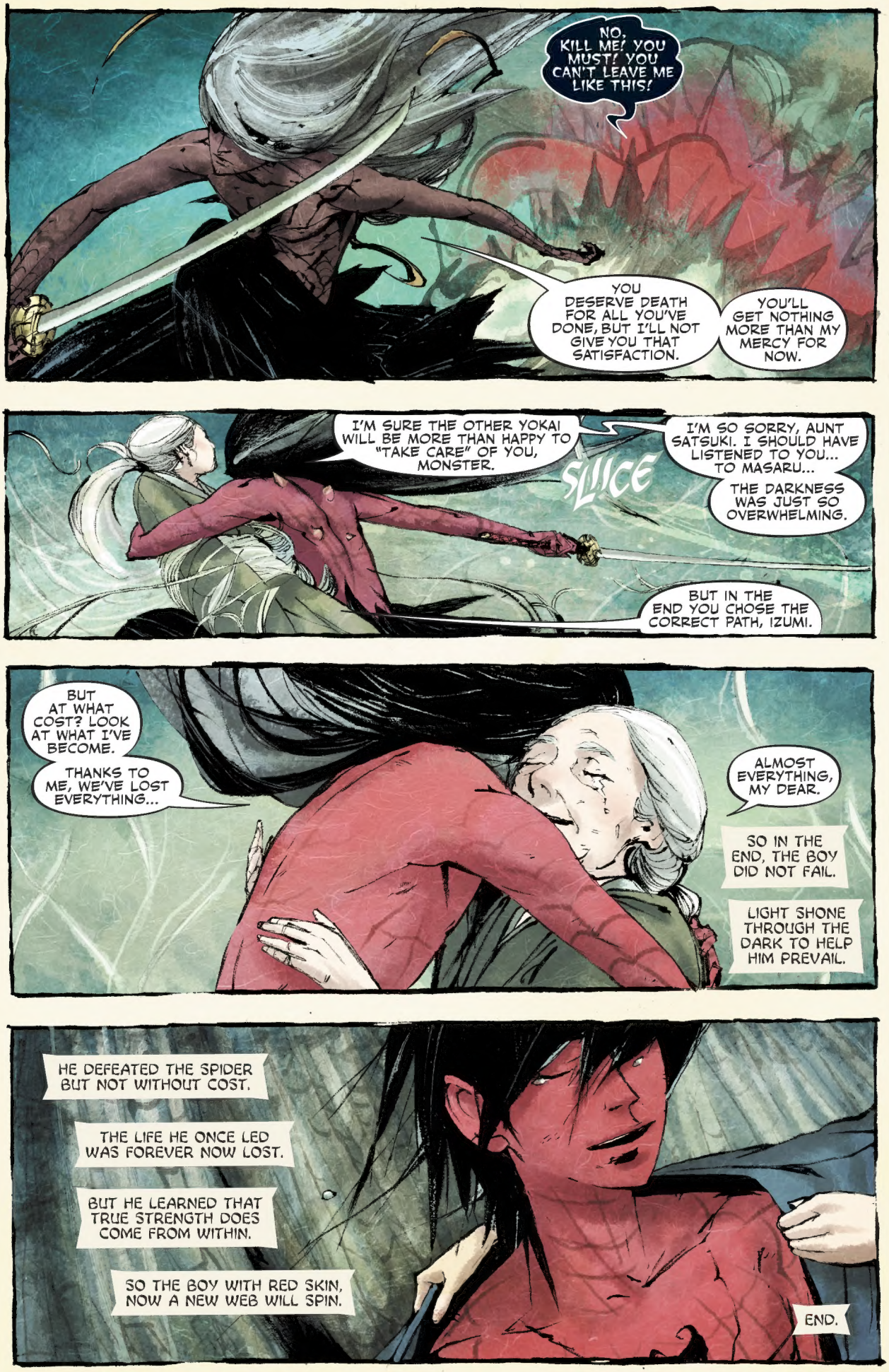
I AM NOTHING LIKE YOU!!

KRSCH
VERY GOOD, BOY! LET THE RAGE SEETHE WITHIN YOU...ALLOW THE FINAL CHANGES TO TAKE HOLD!
IZUMI, NO! REMEMBER THE HAPPINESS... THE LOVE...
HHHHSSSSSSSSS

SWAK
IZUMI, PLEASE... LISTEN TO ME!
HHHSSSSSSSS
HA HA HA YOU NEVER LEARN!
THAT'S IT! KEEP COMING! YOU'RE ALMOST--

WHHISSH
SHLUUK
HYAARGGH!!
SLAASHH
YESSSSS! KILL ME! I WILL LIVE ON THROUGH YOU!
YOUR BODY WILL SERVE AS A MUCH BETTER HOST!

DON'T GIVE IN TO YOUR ANGER, IZUMI! LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF FOR STRENGTH!
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!
When you feel trapped, look for the light on the path before you.
MASARU... NO...
I CAN'T DO THIS!


NO, KILL ME! YOU MUST! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!
YOU DESERVE DEATH FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE, BUT I'LL NOT GIVE YOU THAT SATISFACTION.
YOU'LL GET NOTHING MORE THAN MY MERCY FOR NOW.
I'M SURE THE OTHER YOKAI WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO "TAKE CARE" OF YOU, MONSTER.
SLICE
I'M SO SORRY, AUNT SATSUKI. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU... TO MASARU...
THE DARKNESS WAS JUST SO OVERWHELMING.
BUT IN THE END YOU CHOSE THE CORRECT PATH, IZUMI.
BUT AT WHAT COST? LOOK AT WHAT I'VE BECOME.
THANKS TO ME, WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING...
ALMOST EVERYTHING, MY DEAR.
SO IN THE END, THE BOY DID NOT FAIL.
LIGHT SHONE THROUGH THE DARK TO HELP HIM PREVAIL.
HE DEFEATED THE SPIDER BUT NOT WITHOUT COST.
THE LIFE HE ONCE LED WAS FOREVER NOW LOST.
BUT HE LEARNED THAT TRUE STRENGTH DOES COME FROM WITHIN.
SO THE BOY WITH RED SKIN, NOW A NEW WEB WILL SPIN.
END.